GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:406
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
PENDING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;M.H. AMBAREESH;MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in various Passport Offices as on June 30, 2002, Passport/Regional Passport Office wise;

(b) whether a large number of passport applications have been pending in these offices beyond the stipulated period as fixed by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Passport Office/ Regional Passport Office-wise;

(d) the reasons therefore;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to speed up the process of issuing Passports;

(f) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government to open new Passport Offices in the country; g) if so, the criteria laid down for opening new Passport Offices in the country; and h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

a), b)) & c) The information is placed on the table of the House at Annexure-I

d) The Government endeavours to issue passports within 35 days provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Delay in issuance of passports is caused when either a clear police verification has not been received or the information/documentation submitted by the applicant is incomplete. The other reason for delay in issuance of passports is substantial increase in the number of applications without commensurate increase in the number of staff in the passport offices. The number of passport applications rose from 25,88,520 in the year 2000 to 28,89,577 in 2001, an increase of 12%.

e) Several steps have been taken to speed up the process of issuance of passports, such as computerization of processing procedures, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, introduction of machine writing of passports and expediting police verification reports with the Passport Officers holding regular consultation with the police authorities in their respective areas. The pendency situation in each Passport Office is monitored on a weekly basis.

f) Yes, Sir.

g) The Standing Committee of Parliament on the Ministry of External Affairs has recommended that new passport offices should be governed by objective criteria and new passport offices should be opened where a minimum of 50,000 application be expected per annum. The Committee had recommended that a Passport Office should be located as centrally as possible in contiguous districts/states, which, on an average, generate 50,000 application per year.

h) Steps have recently been taken to open new Passport Offices at Dehradun (Uttaranchal), Ranchi (Jhanrkhand), Raipur (Chhatisgarh), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat).
ANNEXURE-I STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF PASSPORT APPLICATION PENDING AT VARIOUS PASSPORT OF AS ON 30.6.02.

PASSPORT OFFICE	NO. OF APPLICATIONS PENDING
AHMEDABAD	27195
BANGALORE	1274
BAREILLY	454
BHOPAL	13
BHUBANESHWAR	0
CHANDIGARH	2860
CHENNAI	486
COCHIN	742

DELHI	2292
GHAZIABAD	4998
GUWAHATI	59
HYDERABAD	219
JAIPUR	2352
JALANDHAR	3145
JAMMU	15
KOLKATA	194
KOZHIKODE	4024
LUCKNOW	270
MUMBAI	1681
NAGPUR	44
PANAJI	210
PATNA	1000
PUNE	0
SRINAGAR	352
THANE	0
TRICHY	1496
TRIVANDRUM	37
VISKHAPATNAM	1760
TOTAL	57172

An application is considered pending after a clear police verification report has been received and the application is complete in all respects.